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| **Digital Learning Advisory Council (DLAC)**  **Meeting Minutes** | | DESE logo: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **Date:** | March 20, 2024 | |
| **Time:** | 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | |
| **Location:** | Remote Participation - online | |
| **Attendee Information:** | **DLAC members:**  Daniel Downs, Bill Silver, Elizabeth Tripathi, Sarah Haavind, Scott Morrison, Kate DeMello, Stacy Young. Cynthia Yetman  **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) staff:**  Ruth Hersh, Andrea Cote, Jackie Gantzer, Eileen Belastock | |

**Introductions of Remote Participants:**

Per Open Meeting Law, the Chair announces member participation by stating the name of each member in attendance.

**Review and Approve Minutes from December 20, 2023, DLAC Meeting (roll call)**

Chair provides time for members to review December meeting minutes.

Motion to approve, seconded, roll call vote to approve minute.

Kate DeMello - yes

Sarah Haavind – arrived a bit late

Cyndie Yetman – yes

Bill Silver – yes

Stacy Young – yes

Beth Tripathi – yes

Scott Morrison – yes

**Education Technology Team Update (Jacqulyn Gantzer, A.J. Cote, Eileen Belastock)**

The Department will be launching an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force. The Department will keep the DLAC informed about the next steps for the formation and membership of the AI task force.

**Artificial Intelligence: Further Discussion**

Based on an initial conversation about AI in December, the Chair facilitated breakout groups in which DLAC members reviewed notes from prior discussions about AI, identified themes, and ranked the AI themes according to their importance. The small groups then reported back to the full group their rankings. The full DLAC determined the most important themes to further explore regarding AI were:

1. Developing a common understanding and shared definitions of artificial intelligence.
2. What knowledge and skill sets should students, teachers, and school administrators have with regard to artificial intelligence?

Other areas to explore that did not factor into the two were:

* Ensuring data privacy
* Understanding the impact of artificial intelligence on teaching and learning

**Group one:** We were able to have good conversations, Jackie helped frame some things which was great…

1) Common understanding, knowledge, and skills that go along with it.

2) School level and the use of AI, and

3) Impact on teaching and learning directly.

**Group two:**

1. Common understanding, definition vocabulary - Understanding ChatGPT
2. Knowledge and skill set – students and teachers navigating AI in the future – other theme items are a local implementation step and most important for us to report out with – also thinking about how the DLAC can support the CMMR?
3. Also, how do we think about policy in a rapidly changing landscape? How can we as supporting policy makers best equip our colleagues in general, rather than getting on top of this specifically?

**Group three:**

1. Common understanding was up there as a good starting point so that “people can have the table set” and could understand what all this is and how it would impact them.
2. Knowledge and skill sets for students and teachers coming a close second…but it also impacts parents, municipalities, and enhancements that come with AI…also discussion about can what AI can replace…that’s all contained under this piece about how to use the tool.
3. Data privacy – but also how AI is used and manipulated. How are we going to protect students, who will help building leaders?
4. Future use and impact on teaching we ranked as fourth – stories about teachers using AI do not summarize things but summaries don’t include everything. There is a ton to unpack.

**DESE’s Updates on Commonwealth Virtual Schools (CMVS)/Single District Virtual Schools (SDVS): Alison Bagg & Ruth Hersh**

**Achievement Data from CMVS and SDVS -** DESE staff: Any questions about the 2023 academic (MCAS) data provided to DLAC in December from both the CMVS and SDVS?

DLAC member: I see there is a challenge/issue for students who are accustomed to doing school virtually and then having to take the MCAS/standardized tests in a place that is so different from their normal school environment.

DESE staff: If this group is interested there is a third iteration of a CREDO study (a separate research brief) solely focusing on virtual charters, it provides information about virtual school’s outcomes.

**CMVS Updates**

* The commissioner will make a recommendation on the CMVS applicant – Felix Virtual School for the March or April Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting.
* Existing CMVS are seeking a higher tuition rate. They last requested an increase in their tuition rate in 2016. There will probably be a commissioner recommendation on the CMVS tuition rate adjustments and a November 2024 BESE discussion and vote for a rate change that will take effect for FY26.
* DESE is conducting accountability reviews of CMVS this year. We hope to have finalized reports by June 2024 for GCVS and TECCA.
* DLAC member suggests that DESE observe students working at home to better understand how they learn in a virtual environment.
* DLAC member asks if DESE sees how learning materials are modified for individual students.

**Other topics for future DLAC discussion?**

DLAC member: We should discuss the amount of time students spend in front of a machine. We could provide some guidance.

**2023-24 Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, September 27th

Wednesday, December 20th

Wednesday, March 20th

Wednesday, June 12th

Chair: If you are interested, DESE could host a hybrid meeting for our June meeting. Folks who could come to Everett would be welcome, other folks could join via Zoom.

Chair: asks for a motion to adjourn. Ask for a second. Roll Call vote from each member.

**Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn, second, roll call vote.**

Kate DeMello - yes

Sarah Haavind – yes

Cyndie Yetman – yes

Bill Silver – yes

Stacy Young – yes

Beth Tripathi – left a little early

Scott Morrison – yes